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Reflection 1

The conceptual framework developed by the Brooklyn College School of Education is a strong foundation for the program that prepares teachers who will be well fitted to work and make contributions in the schools of New York City. As stated in the document, the four themes presented in the conceptual framework, diversity, collaboration, social justice, and critical self-reflection and reflective practices are tightly interrelated and in the context, cannot function without the other.

These ideals are also represented in the Seminar of Applied Theory and Research course. As the objectives of the course state we as students will be conducting an Action Research, which encompasses all aspects of conceptual framework. Action Research is often a collaborative process where a researcher works with colleagues to identify problem areas in one’s academic practice and finds a possible intervention. This process also involves self-evaluation and reflection. The researcher must look upon his or her own practices and how it reflects upon the students. The intervention must start with the teacher’s own actions, be it an academic or a social approach, within the classroom. The diversity is an ever-present element in Brooklyn College classrooms. We as students must work together yet understand that we are all individuals with different backgrounds, ideas, and opinions. Additionally, as we conduct our projects, we will be dealing with a diverse student population. As one of the objectives of the course we as teacher-researchers have to ensure that the ethical integrity of the test subjects must be maintained, which falls within social justice and diversity categories. Lastly, the teacher-researcher must start and end action research with critical self-reflection. An educator must analyze one’s attitudes, actions and practices in order to identify the area where a minor adjustment or significant change might function as an intervention to a problem. Furthermore, when the intervention is applied, the researcher must again study the results and analyze the success of his/her actions. In this course, we as students experience the full scope of the ideals from the conceptual framework and will be able to apply these ideals in our jobs as educators.

The importance of the conceptual framework ideals as applied to us as educators is tremendous. Being a teacher in as culturally mixed an area as New York City means working with a very diverse population of students, culturally, religiously, mentally and socially. One must grasp the significances of these differences in order to provide equal opportunity to a large spectrum of students. Diversity must also be applied to the academic instruction and content taught. Each teacher must be knowledgeable and informative on many topics and cultures as well as being able to differentiate to offer appropriate instructions to students with varied learning strengths. Since the conceptual framework ideals are interlinked, one cannot have idea of diversity without supporting social justice. Despite various differences between the students all must be treated with the same respect and given ample opportunity for high quality of education. Finally, a pedagogue must always critically analyze one’s work and attitudes in order to make sure he/she stays on the path of the ideals that are important in educating our youth as well as continuously improve one’s practices and students’ experiences. The intrinsic value of these ideals is not only to apply them in one’s practice as a pedagogue but to instill these values in the students themselves.